

RETAINING U-BOLTS TO A TUBULAR AXLE HOUSING

Abstract of the Disclosure

[0016] A tubular axle housing is provided with pairs of tabs that protrude or extend from the axle to a height or length sufficient to prevent the intermediate section of a U-bolt from sliding over the tab. The tabs also help locate and guide the U-bolt between the tabs during the assembly of a leaf spring to the axle housing. The tabs provide a positive locking feature for the U-bolts during service of a vehicle, to prevent the U-bolts from moving laterally along the axis of the axle tube. As a result, the joint between the leaf spring and axle housing is more secure.